

BCM

A Belgian J-Culture Magazine

Nr 20: September - October 2014
Hallowe'en edition

Interviews

Shota Yokoyama

Yukio Murata

Ophanim



Fashion & features

Helcanen in Japan

Cult Party kei

Hallowe'en

NOGOD

Becoming your GoD

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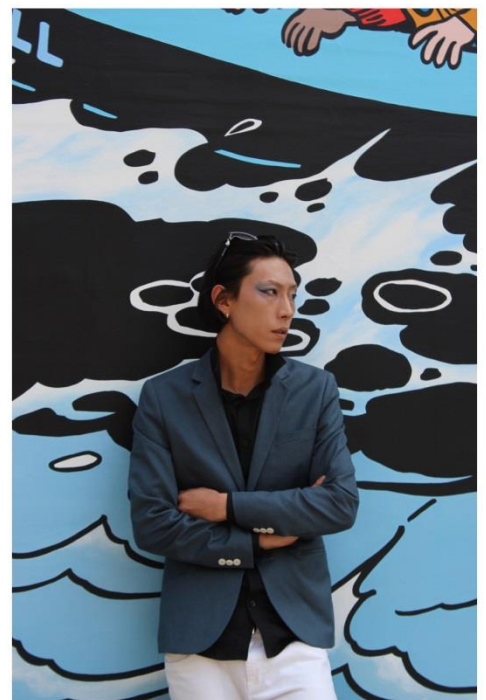
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Written by: Hilde Heyvaert, Isabelle and Keiko T.

Models: Alike, Anso, Alishia Burns, Daisy Burns, Hilde Heyvaert, Haru, Lise, Lunie (www.lunieshop.com), Margot, Tia, Vief,

Photography: Anso, Babs Barning, Alishia Burns, Hilde Heyvaert, Lunie, Margot, Bert Van den Wyngaert,

Halloween J-fashion feature:

Models: Alishia Burns, Daisy Burns, Hilde Heyvaert, Meeki, Saltje, DJ SiSeN, Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen

Photography: Alishia Burns, Hilde Heyvaert, Bert Van den Wyngaert

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by people interviewed are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BCM staff. Thus we cannot and will not be held responsible, nor accountable for them.

INTRODUCTION

To celebrate our milestone 20th edition, we are running our very first competition in this edition! Fans of ADAMS will be particularly pleased, because not only do we have a photo page of Shota exploring Antwerp, an interview with him but we are also giving away not one but two signed Cheki photos of him!

And to stick with music, aside from reviews of releases and concerts, we also interviewed Dancho and Kyrie of NoGoD and Yukio Murata of my way my love and U-re:x fame.

Fashion wise we have snap pages and features covering cult party kei and Halloween! It is our Halloween edition after all.

Speaking of features, the talented Helcanen went to Japan, and brought back many truly fabulous photos from her trip. We will run several in a three part feature, the first part you can see in this edition.

Aside from all of this, we have event features, reviews, photo pages, a calendar with European events and more!

Thank you everyone for participating and reading BCM for you guys all rock!
I hope you will enjoy this issue also, and remember: if you feel like participating in BCM, drop me a line at hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com!

Happy Halloween everyone!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in chief

check it!

LUNIE SHOP.com

*Japanese fashion
Clothes ★ Accessories
Shoes ★ Wigs ★ and more !*



Whilst *cult party kei* rose to popularity around the same time as *dolly kei*, it is a common misconception that *cult party kei* is just *dolly kei* in light colours, even though there are quite a few similarities in the original silhouette of both, as well as in their origins. Whilst *dolly kei* originated in *Grimoire*, *cult party kei* started in the shop with the nearly the same name, *Cult Party*, now called *The Virgin Mary*. Especially for people that new to the style, it can look very similar to *dolly kei* and *mori kei*, mostly because of the layering. But when you take a closer look, you will see the difference between them (for articles and features on *dolly kei* and *mori kei*, check issues 12 and 9 respectively). In reality, *cult party kei* in general has the layering of all three, the boho feel of *dolly kei* and pastel cute elements of *cult party kei* added to it, whilst being something different altogether. Regardless of how much it may seem like other styles, it's very much unique in itself.

Cult party kei consists of **light colours** such as whites, creams, light beiges, with elements of any pastel or light colours, or in some instances brighter elements, although those are rather uncommon in general. When using colour, red is favourable with the fashion, although dark greens and dark blues are sometimes used. The piece that is staple in almost all *cult party kei* is the **peignoir**, often found in vintage and thrift shops, although some contemporary brands have been known to carry them on occasion. This item of clothing is probably the most defining garment in the fashion, even though more contemporary versions of *cult party kei* forgo it and sometimes it is replaced by a flowing negligée.

Layering is crucial and unless you are going for a casual or really no-wadays version of the fashion, even if you don't go for a peignoir, layers are often times still your friend. Dresses, shirts, cardigans, loose socks over tights, layer but don't go totally overboard with it, you want your outfit to have structure even if it has a chaotic feel to it, but you don't want the chaos to completely overtake it. Don't be afraid to mix textures: a cotton skirt, chiffon blouse, sheer peignoir and knitwear cardigan combo is perfectly acceptable.

Prints can be used in *cult party kei*, but keep to the colour scheme of the style, and think of the general feel and possible theme of your outfit when putting it together and using a print. Print wise gingham (checks), stripes or polkadot prints are favoured, provided the size of the print is appropriate (avoid giant prints) and again, it sticks to the colours used in this style. *Cult party kei* may seem a bit mismatched at first, but if you look at outfits carefully you'll see that pieces are actually coordinated with intent, and everything matches in its own way, making the outfit coherent.

Footwear ranges from vintage style, sometimes even dowdy shoes, to lolita footwear, rocking horse shoes, creepers, sneakers to platform sneakers and shoes. Whilst this fashion favours soft colours, brighter coloured, black or brown shoes are not uncommon as splashes of contrast, as long as they match with the outfit.

Accessories in *cult party kei* are very varied ranging from (vintage looking) teddybears, (handmade) dolls, medical or religious symbolism, skulls, creepy elements or flowers. These are not by any means the only things, and if you find something that you think would really work, by all means, go for it. Choose what you like and what matches your outfit and run with it really.

Totebags and larger **bags** of a similar style are favourites. As **DIY** is an important part of *cult party kei*, it is quite common practice to buy an inexpensive white, cream, beige or pastel coloured totebag and decorate it appropriately yourself with lace, bits and pieces of fabric, buttons and even drawings, yourself. Or if you can't draw, ask a friend that can. Printed bags such as the famous bags shaped in the form of an animal's head or even satchels and other vintage looking bags are also quite popular. When using backpacks, again look for one in the right colours. Cute prints on those are excellent too, but if you, for versatility's sake, prefer a plain one or simply stick some buttons on it, that's absolutely fine as well.

Hairstyles range from natural colours to bleached and pastels. But in some cases bright coloured hair can work as well as a contrast with the otherwise paleness and lightness of the outfit. Natural styles such as loose (can be messy, just make sure it's clean) hair, twin tails and braids are probably most popular but sleek and well taken care of dos are acceptable too. **Wigs** are worn with this style, but are not any way a must. If you do go for a wig, choose a natural style one, or one in light colours such as pastels or things like lilacs and faded shades.

Whilst hats are uncommon **hair accessories** (if you do wear one, go for something vintage in style), fascinators, flower crowns and flower hairclips are not. For the creepier style things like (animal) skulls, doll heads and horns can be used too, and more often than not pieces are handmade.

Make-up is also pretty defining for this style and is very similar to that of *dolly-kei* in the way that it basically amplifies your natural look: cheeks become rosier, skin a little paler, all in a way to create a sort of doll like appearance, but if you don't like to use a lot of make-up, you can stick to laying emphasis on your eyes, cheeks and using a natural lip colour also.

As with *dolly-kei*, and aside from (re)making and making things yourself, thrifting is an essential part of putting together your *cult party kei* outfit. Whilst high street stores and several Japanese brands will carry suitable pieces, a lot of things that really fit the style are best found in thrift stores, especially those that specialize in vintage items.

For those loving the general feel and aesthetic of *cult party kei*, but not the colours, there is a dark alternative aptly named **dark cult party kei**. Where the light colours and pastels are exchanged for greys and blacks, but the look remains the same. Just like in the regular style.

When first starting out with this style it can be a little daunting, but keeping this basic information in mind, but you can learn a lot by studying photos of others that wear it online. It's certainly a very versatile style, ranging from outfits that are very opulent to far more casual and wearable every day, and as it has no real brands attached to it but requires (re)making things yourself, thrifting and high street shopping (although places like ebay, etsy and storenvy can be real treasure troves too!), it's suitable for all kinds of budgets.

Some handy weblinks:

<http://the-virgin-mary.com>
ohyeahcultparty.tumblr.com
pop-kakumei.blogspot.com/2013/03/cult-party-kei.html

And definitely also google for "The cult party kei handbook", you'll find it with that term very quickly, the url is sadly a bit too ridiculously long to publish.





CULT PARTY KEI:
layers of nostalgic romance



A Cult party kei outfit with base colours of white and peach, consisting of thrifted, vintage and offbrand shop items.



Hair flowers, H&M. Frames, Theo. Flower brooch, H&M. Blouse, asos. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Bracelet, model's own. Lace & crochet socks, asos. Shoes, Secret Shop.





Hair accessories, handmade and various offbrand stores. Umbrella, Lisbeth Dahl. Crocheted collar, handmade. Dress, customised Orsay, Blouse, thrifted. Underskirt, handmade. Tights, Primark. Shoes, thrifted.



A Cult party kei outfit with base colour white, with cream, blue and pastel pink accents, consisting of thrifted, vintage and offbrand shop items.



Headbow, Innocent World. Dress, Zara. Blouse, H&M. Body harness, handmade by Margot. Tights and socks, offbrand. Shoes, Pieces.



Hairband, HEMA. Frames, Theo. Batwing cardigan, Noisy May. Nègligée, H&M. Blouse, ONLY. Petticoat skirt, American Apparel. BJD tights, Lockshop Wigs. Lace crochet socks, asos. Shoes, Secret Shop.





Hairband, HEMA. Hair Flowers, H&M. Frames, Theo. Shawl, IKEA blanket worn as a shawl. Flower brooch, H&M. Armour ring, Poorman's Gold Label. Blouse, Forever 21. Bracelet, handmade. Chameleon skull ring, Moonraven Designs. Skirt, handmade by Hilde with fabric designed by Rouge Aerie Designs (Carouskel). Petticoat, Dear Celine. Belt bag, Zara Girls. Tassel, Veritas. BJD tights, Lockshop Wigs. Lace socks, gift from a friend. Boots, Sacha.





Daisy's outfit: Medical mask, Jan shop12. Tunic top, vintage. Slip dress, vintage. Auryn necklace, Allyesyes. Cross brooch, Pon Pon Kei. Cat purse, Muchacha. Socks, offbrand. Shoes, offbrand.

Alishia's outfit: Nurses hat, Sheppards Staff Knits. Peignoir, vintage. Collar, Pon Pon Kei. Cross necklace, Maurices. Blouse, vintage Teddi of California. Skirt, Celestial fashions. Shoes, offbrand.



Tunic top, vintage. Slip dress, vintage. Auryn necklace, Allyesyes. Cross brooch, Pon Pon Kei. Cat purse, Muchacha. Socks, offbrand. Shoes, offbrand.



Fake flowers, offbrand. Skirt, thrifted. Dress, Gunne Sax.

Karolina Pacan

Helcanen Val

OUT SOON!
THIS OCTOBER!

Once upon a Poem

OUT SOON! Official release at Metal Female Voices Fest, Friday, October 17 2014; Oktoberhallen, Wieze, Belgium.
A book of poetry by Karolina Pacan (of Skeptical Minds) and illustrations by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be).



Event: Japan Expo
When: Wednesday, July 2 - Sunday, July 6
What: J-culture convention
Where: Parc des Expositions Paris-Nord-Villepinte, Villepinte, France
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: www.japan-expo.com

Japan Expo is known as the J-culture convention of Europe, and with its 15th edition they proved once again why. For the first time in years the convention was operating without its twin *Comic Con Paris*, and whilst several people had expressed some worry about this, the event held up fabulously on its own. All the great big stands of *Comic Con* had returned, some in full force, some obviously reduced in size compared to last year, but the people that came for properly geeky things rather than Japanese culture in all its aspects were not left disappointed. And that brings us to the best point of Japan Expo: it literally has something for everything, going as far as a children's area so parents have a space where their offspring can have a good time in a spot devoted to them. There was gaming, both vintage and contemporary; shopping of both the Japanese (inspired) and geeky persuasion, all kinds of art, exhibits, manga, anime showings (including global premieres), concerts of many different musical genres, introduction to traditional Japanese arts, travel, martial arts, plenty of different kinds of food to keep the foodies happy, and of course for the J-fashionista: the *Kawaii Area*, and much, MUCH more. If someone didn't find something to do at Japan Expo, they simply put in the effort to not have a good time.

The *Parc des Expositions Paris-Nord-Villepinte* once again was an excellent setting for this event with its abovementioned facilities but it has two major downsides. The ridiculously overpriced parking lot. Free shuttle bus up or down (some drivers really could do with the concept of courtesy too actually), charging nearly € 20 for a day of parking is ridiculous. And the state of the public toilets leaves, to put it very tactfully, a lot to be desired. A handy tip: bring your own toilet paper. But enough about the venue, back to the convention itself!

Even though Japan Expo is huge, and the weekend is notoriously hectic, the organisation handled this well by spreading out the food stands and adding plenty of seating space throughout. Even on the

Saturday, the busiest day of the event, there were areas with plenty of open space for those that wanted to flee the crowds for a bit. Squares in between the halls were opened up, so smokers as well as those wanting some air could easily step outside without leaving the convention and people that wanted to get from one hall to another could use a less crowded shortcut. There was no shortage of food stands, you could find food of all kinds, ranging from sandwiches to pastries to all kinds of Japanese food over all three halls in use. Both from the concession food stands that are fixed in Expo Paris-Nord-Villepinte as from the restaurants and eateries that had set up shop for the event as well as several speciality shops such as the *Japan Centre London* that sold Japanese snacks. There even was a stand selling froyo and bubble tea. Whilst food was for the most part, by convention standards at least, reasonably priced, drinks were sadly ridiculously expensive. Especially considering people really do need to drink. But at least the offer was varied enough, and we even spotted a few places offering vegan dishes.

Generally Japan Expo is pretty well organised. They have several lists online of artists and vendors as well as all kinds of useful on their website in both French and English. Each day they distribute a program of that day in dispensers throughout the convention, where people can also find a handy map of the event. Even with both the map and the program, it's best to carefully plan ahead and keep a mindful eye on the websites of stands you want to visit. Because not everyone has everything listed on the Japan Expo site or program. Large areas, such as the *Kawaii Area*, *Nintendo Village* or *Ankama* stand, also organise competitions, signing sessions and what nots, and will list timings in their own particular area. The same goes for special things happening at shops such as the J-fashion meet up in front of the Lunieshop.com stand which happened on Saturday and Sunday. If you don't keep a mindful eye on these things beforehand, you risk missing out on a lot of awesome things that are organised at the event, but not by the event organisation itself.

What makes Japan Expo truly unique though, other than its great diversity and sheer, nearly overwhelming size, is its particular blend of traditional Japan with the modern things we all know so well. On one side you have KERA, NHK World and Spinns Harajuku, to name but three, whilst on the other you have all kinds of traditional arts that have lived on for generations and have a proper historical value right there for everyone to be introduced to. This is probably the only convention where you can properly emerge yourself in traditional Japan as it really focuses on all aspects of Japanese culture, not just one the ones that will draw the most people and generate the most revenue. And that, in our opinion is the true strength of this convention: not only the diversity and the fact that there is something for everyone, even those not really into all things Japanese, but their respect for the tradition and original culture of Japan.

Review and photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of the 15 anniversary edition of **JAPAN EXPO**

July 2 - 6; Parc des Expositions Paris-Nord-Villepinte, Villepinte, France.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



CHECK THAT CHERI

Japan Expo edition





Event: Garden Party
When: Monday, July 7
What: J-fashion event organised by French Café
Where: Le Manoir de l'Île aux Loups,
 Nogent sur Marne, France
Ticket price: € 25
Website: n/a as there was only an FB event page

French Café's first big event, held at *Le Manoir de l'Île aux Loups* in the picturesque French town of *Nogent sur Marne*, one of the towns a few dozen kilometres removed from Paris.

First let us say something about the venue itself. *Le Manoir* is, as the name suggests, a manor house, set on a small island, surrounded by a large front garden and backed by a great big yard. We totally lucked out with the weather, which was nice enough for people not to need coats and cardigans, but not so warm that it made most J-fashions unbearable. Had it rained however, it would have been trouble as the Garden Party of course happened in well, the garden.

Although from what we could see, the manor itself would have provided opportunity to move things inside should it really have been necessary. It was a beautiful location for a J-fashion event.

To get to the manor, you had to take a small type barge-like boat from the dock outside. It was a small traditional barge that did crossings. So it was like crossing the street, just in a quaint little boat, which was an awesome and wicked cool start of the event.

The main inside hall was used as a small vendor area, with Japanese shops *Lorina Liddell* and *Nebaarando* had set up shop, as well as the table where you could buy extra raffle tickets at € 1 per extra ticket. That table was also the display for the prizes, which ranged from accessories by (French) indie designers to bigger brand pieces from labels such as *Swimmer* and even *Angelic Pretty*, making it more than a little worth people's while to purchase at least a couple of extra tickets.

Sadly, due to traffic jam upon traffic jam which turned our 3,5 hour journey into a 6,5 hour one, our little party of three arrived an hour late into the event, making most of us miss out on the savoury foods so we can't say much about the regular things that were served, but the vegan dish was really nice.

After savoury foods, and giving people time to socialise the *Bingo* game started. This was pretty ingenious. Instead of just numbers, you had to fill in your bingo cards with the numbers on people's name tags (corresponding with their ticket). This helped along socialising for those that welcomed the incentive to start talking to new people, but of course for those that were too shy, they could just write down numbers so everyone could participate regardless. The Bingo game itself had some cute small prizes and was presented in both English and French, which was great as there were a large number of people attending from outside France. The only downside was the speed at which the numbers were called, it really went super fast.

The next thing happening was the dessert buffet, where people could choose from a wide variety of cakes and small pastries. Again a vegan option was present, which was awesome and considerate of the organisation.

During the time foreseen for the dessert buffet people not only had time to eat, but also to just hang out and admire each other's outfits (seldom were there so many fabulously dressed people in different J-fashion styles in one area), take photos and making small talk. But also to fill in the small competition form for the outfit competition on which people could write their two favourites, which had to be handed in by 4 pm, which was the time for the raffle, followed by two announcements: first that of the winners of the outfit competition, and the one of that next *Street Fashion Europe* event will take place in Paris in February or March 2015, and the group shot in the front garden.

Even though that concluded the events on the planning, there was still plenty of fun to be had hanging out with others and socialising. Or filling out little valentine's notes. The organisation had set up little mesh bags with heart shaped candies for everyone where people could leave little notes for them, which was a fabulous little touch and a great idea. Of course they had set up a table with paper and pencils too to make things go smooth.

Whilst the organisation had announced that the event would end at 5pm, the venue of course didn't close at that time, and those that could stick around a little longer were welcome to do so, which caused quite a few people to linger and continue talking and spending time with friends, not wanting to go home because they were having such a great time. And time really did fly whilst we were having fun, it felt like we had spent hardly any time at all at this wonderful event and awesome location.

We look forward to more events organised by French Café in any case!

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Saltje Khenfi.
 Photography by (and provided by) Hilde Heyvaert, Studio Art Création.



Photographic Impressions of
FRENCH CAFÉ'S GARDEN PARTY

Monday, July 7; Le Manoir de l'île aux Loups, Nogent sur Marne, France.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Studio Art Création.



CHECK THAT CHERI

Garden Party edition



Exploring Antwerp with Shota of ADAMS

Thrifting at 't Koetshuis, sightseeing
throughout old town and drinks on 't Zuid.

Tuesday, July 15, Antwerp, Belgium
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Event: Atsusacon
When: July 19 & 20
What: J-culture convention
Where: Antwerp Expo, Antwerp, Belgium
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: www.atsusacon.be

Atsusacon is quite probably the smallest J-culture/Asia Mania convention we currently have in Belgium, but the smaller size definitely doesn't stop it from being one of the best. With *Japan Expo Belgium* not being organized this year, and compared to the lackluster 6th edition of *Made in Asia* earlier this year, Atsusacon easily went to the top of the ladder quality wise.

Even though the Saturday when we attended, many people had decided not to brave the infernal heat, instead preferring to show up on the much cooler Sunday.

The crowd that did show up seemed to have a blast. And even though outside the temperature was attempting tropical heights, it really wasn't as bad once you got inside the convention.

The main room upstairs was even blissfully cool, so it came to no surprise that plenty of people were hanging out there waiting for the cosplay convention to start, spending time with friends or photographing cosplayers.

Temperature control was not the only thing that the organisation had improved upon this year, ticket sales on site as well as getting in with pre-sale or special tickets was one of the best organised affairs I've ever seen at a convention and everyone was given the correct bracelet in no time. (At least when we checked in, I can't speak for literally the entire convention, but when we arrived we were impressed with the efficiency).

Even inside everything was well divided into sections. There was a gaming set-up, which was really rather popular as we saw nearly all to all computers being in use at any given time. Traditional Japanese displays of garments, samurai armour and workshops.

There were several areas for food, you could eat sandwiches and Japanese food downstairs, with a handy seating area provided, and some other dishes upstairs, also with a seating area that doubled as a anime viewing area. Upstairs was also the host of the aforementioned cosplay convention as well as some lectures, workshops and games.

Whilst the vendor's area of Atsusacon is much smaller compared to that of other conventions, you can find some things there that you can't easily find at other events, it's generally easier to browse as well without absolute masses of people around you. Every year Atsusacon does a good job setting up their vendor space, and this year was no different, quite on the contrary, it was an improvement still!

Even though we were initially skeptical about the one way entrance and exit for the vendor's area, we have got to admit it was a bit of a stroke of genius as it did mean that people could move around much easier once inside without much in the way of actual two way traffic. Because let's face it, having to maneuver through convention lanes with not only (often slow) people in front of you, but with also (often slow) people coming at you from the other direction can be a bit hellish and daunting, especially if you want to get to some scheduled event in time.

All in all, this year's edition was very enjoyable, probably the best one so far. We are curious to see how Atsusacon will continue to grow in the future, because it visibly improves every single year. This edition was absolutely no different and it comes to no surprise that so many people look forward to attending.





Photographic impressions of **ATSUSACON**

July 19 - 20, Antwerp Expo, Antwerp, Belgium

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.





The art of
toshio ebine

Imaginarium:Sunday
July 21 - August 3, Ikebukuro LOFT, Ikebukuro, Tokyo.

Official site: <http://ebineyland.jimdo.com>
Official facebook: www.facebook.com/toshio.ebine
deviantART: <http://ebineyland.deviantart.com>

Photographic impressions of the collaborative events FantasiaFest and the Dutch European Steampunk Convention: **D.E.S.C.**

July 25 - 27, De Schiphorst, Meppel, The Netherlands.

Photography by Serge Smulders and Clara Lina Wirz.



Photographic impressions of
CASTLEFEST

August 1 - 3, Domain of Castle Keukenhof, Lisse, The Netherlands.

Photography by Clara Lina Wirz.





Nozomu Shibata

STEAMPUNK IN OSAKA

Steampunk Fantasy Art Creator's Exhibition, August 13 - 19.
Japan Steam Exhibition - Steampunk Collection in Osaka, August 16-17
Hanshin Department Store, Osaka, Japan.

Photography by Dan Orlowitz.



MaRy and 130JET of Strange Artifact and Poorman's Gold Label. Organisers of the Japan Steam Exhibition - Steampunk Collection in Osaka.



Toe Cocotte model



h.NAOTO STEAM



Shopping at the DAMYS booth.



Kei Onishi





helcanen in japan

The incredibly talented Helcanen visited Japan during the month of July, in the middle of summer, these are some of the unique views of the country through her lens.

Check out her other works on www.helcanen.be



douzo meshiagare!

food



mitama matsuri

Festival of Souls. Yasukuni Jinja shrine, Chiyoda, Tokyo, July 13 - 16

Approximately 300,000 people flock to Yasukuni Jinja shrine during its annual Mitama Matsuri, one of Tokyo's biggest festivals, intended to honour the deceased. It was first held in 1947 and the festival is best known for the 30,000 lanterns lighting the way to the shrine each evening.

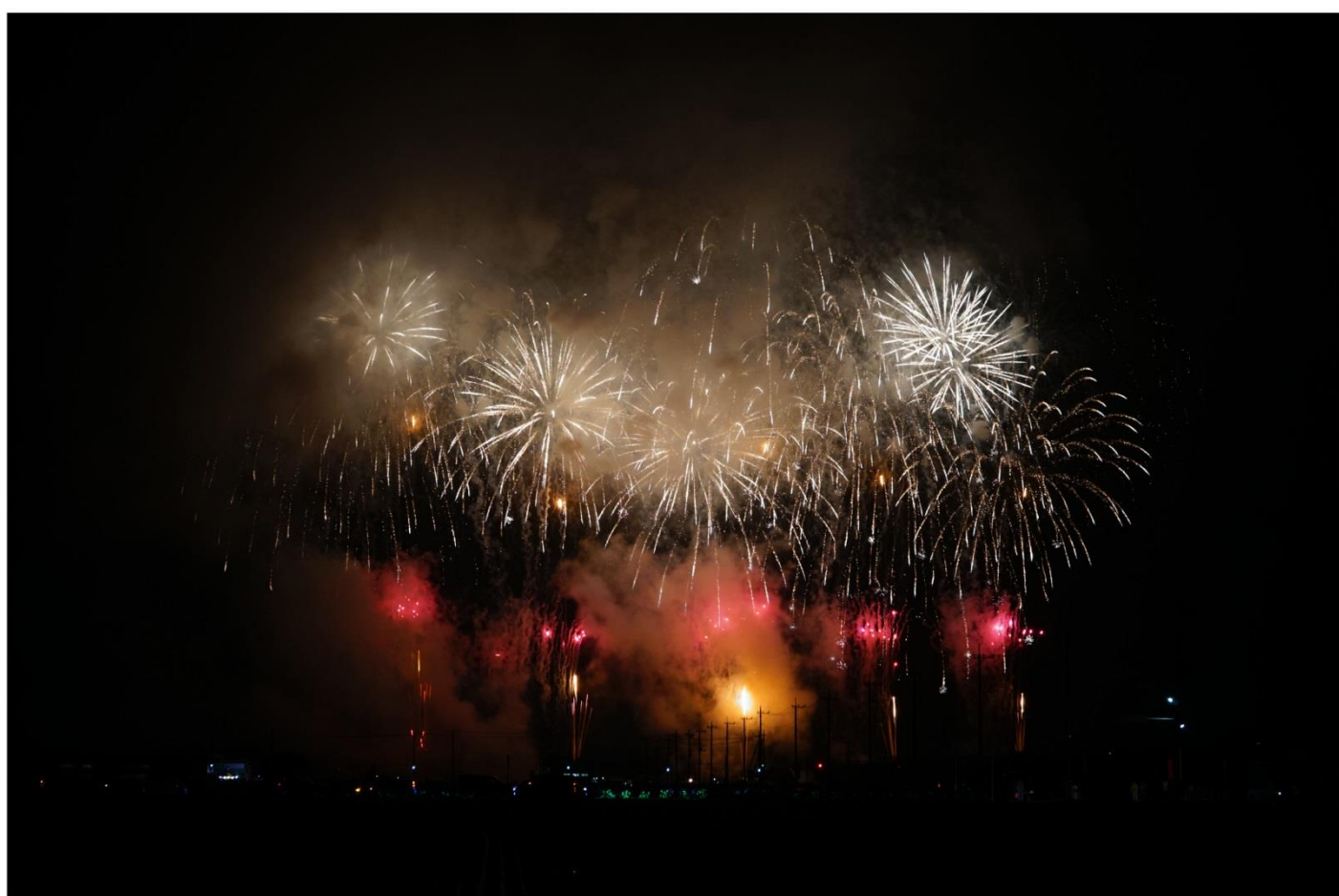
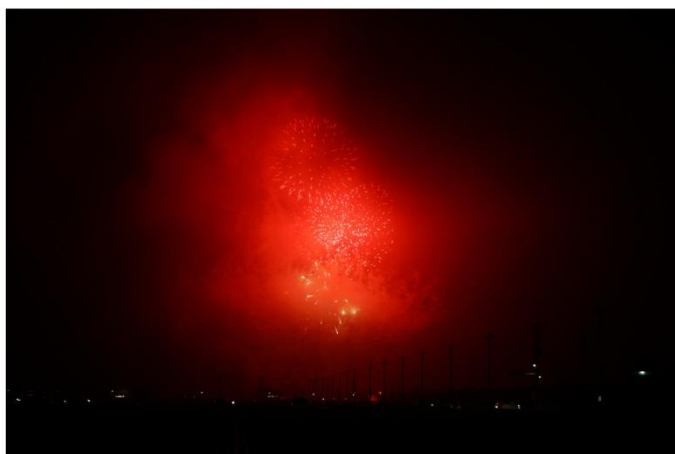


Relaxing in a Tokyo park in

shinjuku gyoen



shinjuku



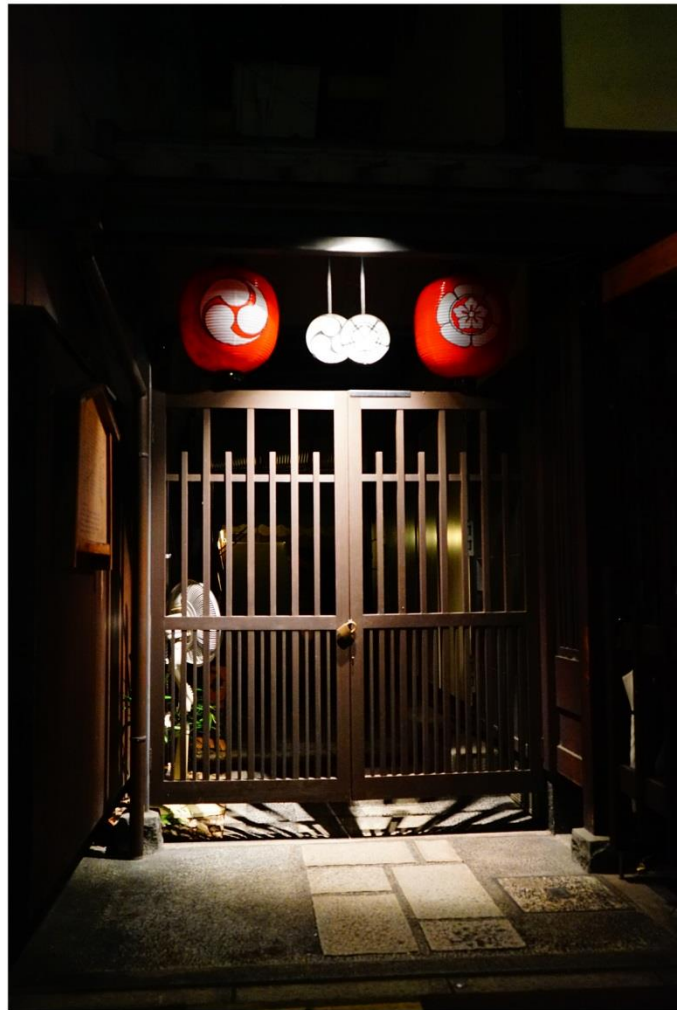
tamamura hanabi



kyoto gion matsuri

The festival of Yasaka shrine. Gion area, Kyoto, throughout July.

This festival takes place spread out over the entirety of July in the Gion area of Kyoto. The main events take place from July 14 - 16 with smaller events leading up to the main procession of floats that take place on July 17 and 24. Aside from these, a veritable myriad of other, smaller events takes place.





J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert, Ish and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



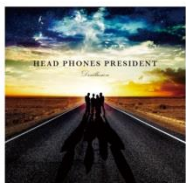
ADAMS
"Akisame"
single
Release date: autumn 2014

ADAMS is back in Europe with a new digital release: the two song release *Akisame*, containing both the title track and the B-side *NUDE*. ADAMS is building on their neosexual style and electronic rock they are well-known for, but is clearly growing. Where this will lead on their next full album remains to be seen, but until then *Akisame* is an enjoyable release with the good solid ADAMS sound their fans have grown to adore.



HITT
"Melancholy to boku"
Full album
Release date: September 19 2014

Leading up to HITT's *Five Year in Europe* tour in September, he's not only back for new concerts, he's also back with a new 9 song CD full of typical HITT tracks. He's bringing us more of his particular brand of piano rock with jazzy influences and mixed in with just the right amount of electronics. Also true to HITT, he's not afraid to experiment with new sounds and styles of composition, which makes this album very versatile and ranging from songs of which you'll listen to and think "this is HITT" (at his best in some cases) to "hey this is something new for HITT", making it fresh and familiar at the same time. And knowing HITT, these tracks will really come to life during the lives, so catch him live if you can!



HEAD PHONES PRESIDENT
"Disillusion"
Full album
Release date: autumn 2014

I'm not sure what the *HEAD PHONES PRESIDENT* are disillusioned with, but their very fourth full album *Disillusion* is far from making us disillusioned with the heavy metal genre. Quite on the contrary as *Disillusion* is a rock solid, female voiced album filled with songs that can compete with the best of the genre. Even though the song titles are in Japanese, there is a lot of English in the lyrics, uniting the best of both world of Japanese and Western metal in the band's music. There's a strong coherence on the album between tracks but also between vocals, instrumental skill and arrangements. HEAD PHONES PRESIDENT has released a very promising full CD with *Disillusion* and it's definitely one of those bands to keep an eye on in the future.

HEAD PHONES PRESIDENT will perform live in Belgium at the *Metal Female Voices Fest* on Saturday, October 18th 2014 at the *Oktoberhallen* in Wieze.

LOKA live at Japan Expo

Saturday, July 5

Parc des expositions Paris-Nord-Villepinte, Villepinte, France

As you could read in the interview with *LOKA* in our previous edition, singer *Kihiro* stated that *Japan Expo* was the reason the band had come back to Europe on their *ECHOEZ* tour and it showed as they were on stage in the live house, setting the venue on fire. Having seen two previous gigs on their current European tour last June, and two on their first *LOKA DEVAS EUROPE* European tour in November 2013, we have to say that *LOKA* keeps on getting better live with every single concert.

Japan Expo was definitely the crown on their performance work so far, and they got the crowd on their hand effortlessly for the entire duration of their concert.

The band proves they are equally at home in (small) clubs as on large(r) convention) stages, keeping the fire in their heart hitting music.

If *LOKA* continues on the road they are on right now, they are undoubtedly going to become one of the big international bands in a matter of time. If you get the chance, make sure to check them out.

Hopefully *Japan Expo* will realise their talent as well after this fantastic concert and they'll put them on the main stage next, at the rate their fan base is growing they'll definitely be able to use the extra space to fit in all of the audience.

Setlist:

SLICK
From Yesterday
11th Hour
Daedalus
Breathe me out the shadow
Eden
Club Rock Shit
Tsubasa Trigger



Season of Ghosts
"The Human Paradox"
Full album
To be released in 2014/available for pre-sale at Metal Female Voices Fest

The Human Paradox certainly does its name justice, with a brilliant mix of Heavy Metal and electronics. *Sophia Sama* (ex *BLOOD STAIN CHILD*)'s beautiful and strong vocals are haunting, doing the project's name more than a little justice. On top of that, Sophia is one of those vocalists with a wide range, making her work as diverse as the music on her album. The combination of singing, growling and spoken word is something that just really fits the music, and it's never gratuitous, always adding perfectly to the composition and the song itself. There's a good balance to this album, switching between hard and hitting guitars and electronic backings to more introvert and ballad style songs. It's clear listening to this first album by *Season of Ghosts* souls were really poured into its creation, which adds to making the music so gripping and phenomenal. From the instrumental intro to the first song with vocals, aptly titled *Genesis*, the album grasps you and doesn't let go, and when it does end you just want to play it again, and again. Seldom have we at BCM been this enthusiastic about a first release, and we look forward to see what else the *Season of Ghosts* will bring us in the future.

Season of Ghosts will perform in Belgium on the *Metal Female Voices Fest* on Saturday the 18th of October in the *Oktoberhallen* in Wieze.

Photographic impressions of MIKARU'S UNDER THE MOON EUROPEAN TOUR

June 20 - July 6.

Photography by David Pleszak.



LOKA

ECHOEZ European tour

Le garage creative music

Liège - Belgium

Sunday, June 29 2014

In spite of drummer *KEN'ICHI*'s leg injury and the fact he couldn't get around without crutches (get well soon *KEN'ICHI*!), you could barely hear his injury in *LOKA*'s performance at *Le Garage*.

The crowd had already been sufficiently warmed up by *Skeptical Minds*, who got everyone in the mood for *LOKA*'s particular mix of hardcore, (nu) metal and (post)punk with their own particular style of metal. The opening act only served to get the crowd more eager of the concert to come by the band most people had come for and not even the dire heat of the live room in *Le Garage*'s venue could dampen the spirits.

There was even a group of French fans present, that had been travelling to follow *LOKA* around for several performances in France, the Netherlands and Germany before joining the Belgian fans in Liège, a testament to the growing fan base of the band in Europe. They even invented their own little "LOKA dance" which singer *Kihiro* encouraged them to teach to the Belgian fans, with mixed success.

What wasn't a mixed success, but a full on hole in one, was *LOKA*'s outstanding performance. Once again they played a mix of older songs and new material from their CD *QUATTRO*, which is so successful it was even sold out, and more copies had to be ordered to supply the ever growing demand for their newest album.

Once again *LOKA* proved they are fantastic performers, able to translate their recorded works into hard rocking live performances that can get an entire crowd dancing and enjoying themselves to the fullest. Undoubtedly they are one of the best live bands that are currently doing tours in Europe, and if you are faced with the opportunity to see them in concert, grab it with both hands, you won't regret it.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.





Photographic impressions of RAMLØ

THRONE - ZEROth LIVE IN PARIS

Friday, July 4 2014; Le Divan du Monde, Paris, France.

Photography by Julien Chantome.

Setlist

- 01 OPENING
- 02 Yamiyo no Lion
- 03 Moulin Rouge
- 04 Fuyu TOKYO
- 05 Tsuioku no mon amour
- 06 Gensou Trianon
- 07 Symphony Of the Vampire Part.1
- 08 Symphony Of the Vampire Part.2
- 09 Symphony Of the Vampire Part.3
- 10 Tresor
- 11 Grazioso
- 12 Bastille
- 13 Symphony Of the Vampire Part.4
- 14 Symphony Of the Vampire Part.5
- 15 Symphony Of the Vampire Part.6
- 16 Symphony Of the Vampire Part.7
- 17 Unmei
- 18 Louis la vie en Rose
- 19 End



NoGoD

Live House, Japan Expo
Parc des Expositions Paris-Nord-Villepinte
Villepinte - France
Saturday, July 5 2014

For the first time ever, Japanese visual kei heavy metal band *NoGoD* graced a European stage with their showcase concert at *Japan Expo's Live House* stage. It was thus no surprise that a lot of European fans had gathered in the venue as soon as possible to get a good view on the stage to see this band give it their all.

NoGoD performed an energetic 45 minute showcase concert, and it was clear that the band loved being on stage. Even though there was a language barrier, it didn't stop singer *Dancho* trying to communicate with the crowd during the scheduled MC section, much to the audience's appreciation. Even during the live itself the band was as interactive with those that came to see them as possible, and even the staff of Japan Expo in the safety zone/press area was going wild.

Even though the band only had a limited time on stage to win over the crowd, they had them on their hand from the first song onwards, creating an atmosphere that was loved by both fans and people that came out just out of curiosity with their great energy and energetic riffs. Making the short time they were on stage really far too short.

The large downside to this concert, however, was neither the time restraint the band had the deal with, nor the band's fault in any way shape or form. Whilst singer Dancho has a very diverse voice, the sound mixing sadly left a lot to be desired and compared to the volume of the instruments, the volume of the vocals was far too low. Whilst it did give the crowd the opportunity to fully enjoy the instrumental skill, which is astounding, it did mean that Dancho got rather drowned out on many occasions, which was a right shame. It didn't stop the band from performing to the best of their abilities and the audience to let loose to the songs though but it was too bad that it happened anyway.

Microphone volume, or better lack thereof, aside, NoGoD put on a rock solid performance, to a crowd that either got there especially for them or stuck around out of curiosity after having been thoroughly warmed up by *LOKA* (who performed before NoGoD at the Live House). Undoubtedly they proved to a lot of people who already love their recorded works that they are even better live than on CD as well as gained quite a few fans amongst those that came to check them out because opportunity presented themselves.

Hopefully the concerts at Japan Expo (as they performed on both Saturday and Sunday) will have been a starting point for a European tour so we'll be able to enjoy NoGoD live on a proper European tour soon enough.

Set list

01. 神風 (Kamikaze)
02. 絶望、バイバイ。 (Zetsubou Bye Bye)
03. 最高の世界 (Saikou No Sekai)
- MC
04. Carnival
05. パンドラ (Pandora)
06. owner's high
07. Stand up!!
08. Frontier

Review by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.
Special thanks to the NoGoD team of King Records.



A SELECTION OF CONCERTS FROM THE 15TH EDITION OF JAPAN EXPO.

There were many more awesome artists, but sadly we could not see and/or photograph them all.

Photography by Marty Genicot and Bert Van den Wyngaert (photo of NoGoD).



HEAD PHONES PRESIDENT LIVE

July 11, Astro Hall, Harajuku, Tokyo, Japan.

HEAD PHONES PRESIDENT will perform in Belgium at Metal Female Voices Fest on Saturday, October 18 at the Oktoberhallen in Wieze.

Photography by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be).



NO GOD

Believe in music!



Heavy Metal band **NoGoD** was one of the talented artists gracing the **Live House stage at Japan Expo**, for not one, but two, 45 minute showcases. Because that short amount of time wasn't nearly enough to learn all there is to find out about this band, and because they are releasing their new full album in September, BCM caught up with them after their very first European performances in France with singer **Dancho** and lead guitarist **Kyrie**.

Your concept is both theological and philosophic: if people believe in NoGoD hard enough, you can become their personal god. What has lead you to this particular belief?

Dancho (vocals): I am not a religious person. I think that believing is important, and you can believe in anything. So, my object for belief is the power of music, and I wish my fans to feel it too. I am not an anti-Christ *laughs*.

This is the first time you're performing outside of Asia, how does being here make you feel?

Dancho: I am very happy to be here because Europe is a sanctuary of Heavy Metal music.

What do you hope performing at Japan Expo, widely considered as THE J-culture convention of Europe, will do for NoGoD?

Dancho: I want to see if our Heavy Metal from an island country will be accepted by the people of the home of Heavy Metal. I also want to come back to France for a one-man show next time and I do hope to make a European tour happen.

You are also meeting fans during this event, what kind of people do you think and hope you will encounter?

Dancho: I hope people won't be scared of my shironuri (editor: white face) make-up and talk to me in a friendly way *laughs*.

Did you research French culture before coming here?

Dancho: Yes, but only a little bit. I love wine and cheese, so I am excited to try French dishes.

What do you know about France?

Dancho: The only thing I really know is that my favourite rock bands *Pleymo* and *WATCHA* are from France.

You will release a new album on September 17th, what can you tell us about it already?

Kyrie (lead guitar): We have just finished the track down of the album. I think it has a different feeling compared to our previous albums but I am sure it will show exactly what NoGoD is, just as ever.

Dancho: I think the new album is our most aggressive, progressive, and full of variety to date.

On your current EP, *Shikisai*, you use influences from other musical genres, most noteworthy Latin influences, what made you chose these influences in particular, and what other genres would you like to incorporate into NoGoD's sound in the future?

Kyrie: I think you can imagine the scenes vividly reflected in the tracks of *Shikisai*. We picked up the approaches which were different from our original arrangements so the listeners can enjoy the scenes and lyrics deeply. In general, we don't stick to particular sounds or musical genres, so that we can adopt whichever genres and do whatever we want to do musically.

Dancho: We selected the genres, which are clearly highlighted in the tracks. And we would like to try adding keyboard to songs someday.

Kyrie, you are known for your distinctive playing style on a 7-string guitar, could you tell us a little bit more about how you came to perfect your style and about the instrument you play itself?

It was annoying for me to do a down tuning and to change the guitars along with the down tuning. That is why I started using the seven strings guitar with the idea something like "the bigger one is bet-



ter than the smaller one". The fact is that the sound qualities between the down tuning and the seven strings guitar are totally different even though I play the notes at the same pitch, so the down tuning cannot be replaced by the seven strings guitar at all. In addition, a style as a guitar is different between six strings and seven strings, so my idea that "the bigger one is better than the smaller one", was not actually correct. However, the advantage is that I can reduce the restrictions of the compositions keys by keeping a regular tuning is very effective for a band like NoGoD, which has a wide range of vocals. Thus, the seven strings guitar is necessary to expand the widths of our sounds and compositions. The guitar I'm using now is my own model of ESP, of which I customized the neck and body shapes for my own, with a synchronized tremolo unit, based on the M7 of ESP.

Dancho, you are known for your comical interaction with the audience, had you prepared something in French for the concerts at Japan Expo?

I managed to master and use two words: "bonjour" and "merci" *laughs*.

Have you ever considered doing stand-up comedy aside from being a singer?

Actually, I have *laughs*.

Fashion is very important to a musician, and you have a very distinctive style with NoGoD, could you tell us a little more about your stage outfits?

Dancho: I tell the designer about the image for the band that I have in mind, and then the outfits are made according to that. We change our outfits every release, so the next ones will be something totally different.

Villepinte, where Japan Expo takes place, is very close to Paris, which is one of the fashion capitals of the world, who is your personal favourite fashion designer?

Dancho: I'm afraid I'm very bad when it comes to remembering high fashion names *laughs*.

This issue is our traditional Halloween edition. Do you have plans for Halloween yet? What would you like to do to celebrate the holiday if you had the choice?

Dancho: In Japan, some people attend parties in costume or cosplay these days. However, we basically don't have a Halloween culture so commonly most people spend the day just like every other day, just as usual *laughs*.

On a closing note, could you tell us something about NoGoD that you definitely want your European fans to know?

Dancho: We would love to have more shows in Europe and release more albums overseas, so for that to happen, please invite us to Europe!

Find NOGOD online:

And also the links to Dancho and Kyrie's social media:

Official site: www.artpop.org/nogod

Official King Records site:

<http://www.kingrecords.co.jp/cs/artist/artist.aspx?artist=20087>

Official twitter: twitter.com/NoGoD_Official

Dancho's twitter: twitter.com/dancho_nogod

Kyrie's twitter: twitter.com/kyrie_nogod



Shota of ADAMS

Back in Belgium



Shota Yokoyama, producer, guitarist and co-vocalist of **ADAMS**, was back in Belgium to do some extra promotion for his band as well as his production company **HIGHFeel** he runs together with **Aurélie** of **Râmen Events**.

We met up with Shota and Aurélie in a cosy retro café on the Antwerp South area for a talk over drinks about their plans.

You are currently in Europe, not to perform, but to promote ADAMS, other than gaining publicity for the band, what is your main goal on these visits?

To be honest, aside from the promotional aspect, I'm mainly here on vacation *smiles*.

Are you going to profit of being here to do some sight-seeing you weren't able to do whilst you were on tour?

I haven't made any concrete plans I must admit, my main goal is to take things as they come and to be inspired. But if someone takes me along to cool places I definitely won't object *smiles*.

We're currently in Antwerp, in Entrepot du Congo, one of the retro style cafés in town. What's your first impression of the city so far?

I like it here so far, Antwerp looks like a very interesting town and I look forward to seeing more in a bit. I could spend all three weeks of my European stay here quite happily I think.

The last time you were in Europe was March, which was the most memorable moment for you from that tour?

Shota: I have quite a few, but I think that our performance for *Zhivoe-TV* in Russia topped it off. It started out really quite stressful and the mood was weird, but the audience was amazing. They really supported us and loved our music as one, that was very touching. The show there was great.

Aurélie: The promoter was very strict due to the Russian law, what with the band's concept of boys love and all. Especially as there were minors involved. It was also very stressful for the band. Originally it was going to be an 18+ show, but that got changed to all ages and thus the way the band behaved on stage had to be taken into account so we wouldn't accidentally do something illegal as there were minors in the audience. They were also very strict about what merchandise we could and couldn't sell. But the audience really was fantastic, it was a great crowd and a memorable show.

You met a lot of fans on the tour, which fan stood out the most?

Our fans in Switzerland for sure! There were so many people that came to our concert at PolyManga in Lausanne. A lot of them were cosplaying too, and teenagers.

When we last spoke, you mentioned that ADAMS was evolving into a new theme altogether, and that you were closing the neo-sexual chapter. Could you tell us a little more about the next chapter for the band at this point?

We're actually working on our next album right now. It will be more electronic. We'll keep our theme, but we've evolved it at the same time. Speed wise the tracks will be more industrial. The music of course won't be anything resembling that genre, I'm just trying to illustrate the tempo. Hopefully the new single will be out around the last week of September, nothing is set in stone yet but that's the time we're aiming for. I can tell you that it will be a love song though.

(Editor: *Akasime*, meaning Autumn Rain, will be available online from the end of September and will be a two track release. You can read a review in this edition of BCM).

Japanese musicians are often multi-instrumentalists. We've all seen you play the guitar, but what other instruments do you play?

Aside from the guitar I play the bass and that's it. I can play synthesizers and use electronic music programs on the computer to compose songs though *smiles*. I'd love to learn how to play the piano though. Someday I will *smiles*!



Which are your favourite brands of instruments?

When it comes to recording and song writing I use a lot of *Fender* and *Gibson Les Paul* instruments but when it comes to performing I love *Mosrite*. My guitar by them looks great and has an easy sound. Fender and Gibson are both good and I play them a lot but they just don't have that same stage appeal. To be honest I can play anything and I'm not that set in my brands. I just need grease for my strings and I'm good to go *smiles*.

Did you write any new songs for ADAMS whilst on the road in Europe that we'll be able to hear on your next release?

I didn't actually, I never write whilst on tour.

Aside from ADAMS, you are also further developing HIGHFeel. Could you tell us a little more about new things that are happening with those projects since we spoke in March?

Shota: Aurélie, this one is for you.

Aurélie: We recently signed *Saga*, which is a trio composed out of a Japanese, Chinese and Korean member. Not only do they make music together, they live together too. We're actually bringing them out to Europe on a tour from October 31st 'till November 16th. Shota will be coming along too, as he is acting as tour manager, and I'll be the driver *laughs*. No I jest, no doubt I'll drag some luggage around as well *laughs*!

Shota: I think what they're doing is great. Their music may be a bit difficult style wise, as they are neither traditionally Japanese, Korean or Chinese in what they do. So they don't fit into any of the cultural clichés people will have about their country and their country's music. It's also not visual kei. But it's a great project and I hope people will support it like we do.

This edition is our traditional Halloween edition. Do you have plans for Halloween yet? What would you like to do to celebrate the holiday if you had the choice?

Aurélie: Yes of course! We'll be on tour with *Saga* as that's the starting date of the tour. I'll be a horse as usual *laughs*.

Shota: I want to be a vampire *grins*!

In November you will perform in South America for the first time, what are your hopes and expectations for those two lives?

Shota: I hope it means we will get more promotion out of it globally as it's a brand new area to perform at. I hope something huge will happen, not something bad of course, just something that will attract major media attention so we'll make the news big and people will really hear about us. In any case, *ADAM* and I will do our very best to impress everyone.

Aurélie: We got a lot of promotion going in the EU, actually things went very fast, almost like a rollercoaster, so hopefully we'll be able to do the same in South America. We're going to make the best of it in any case.

Find Shota, ADAMS and Aurélie online:

ADAMS official website: <http://adamshota.com>

ADAMS official facebook: www.facebook.com/adamandshota

ADAMS official twitter: twitter.com/adamshota

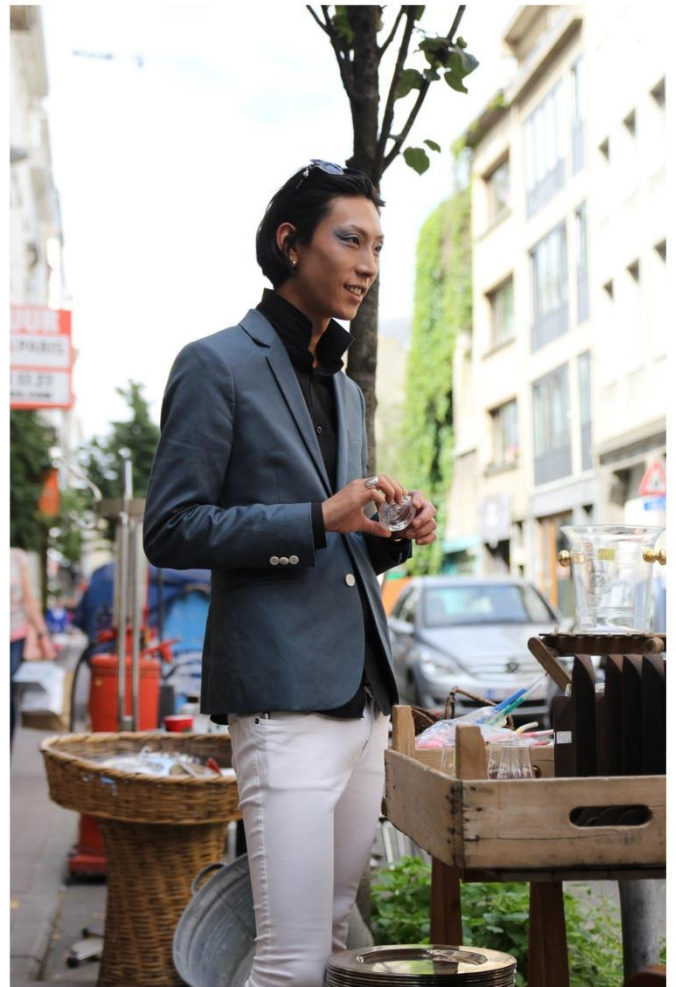
Shota's website: <http://shotayokoyama.com>

Shota's twitter: twitter.com/Shota2021

HIGHFeel: <http://highfeel.jp>

Râmen Events: www.ramen-events.com

Interview and photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Thank you for reading BCM!

"
LOVE FOREVER
"

NOTA

COMPETITION!

WIN A CHEKI SIGNED BY SHOTA!

When we met up with Shota for an interview and urban exploration in Antwerp last July, we took these two cheki photos that he kindly signed. Of course we are not keeping these for ourselves, no we are offering them up in our very first competition!

All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win a signed cheki of Shota. You can write something, draw something, do whatever you please, just keep it safe for work and something that fits in an email attachment as you'll have to email your submissions to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com AND info@highfeel.jp. Aurélie, Shota and myself will then pick not one but TWO lucky winners and each will receive a cheki by snail mail.

Deadline for the submissions is October 24th, so you have ample time to come up with something. The winners will be personally notified and asked for their home address so we can mail out their cheki.

Please be aware that we rely on regular mail to send out cheki via B-post, and we are by no means responsible if the post fails. They haven't so far when it comes to sending cheki all over the globe but you know, we like to mention this in advance. Also B-post can take several weeks to deliver outside of Belgium, so if the winner is foreign, they will have to practice patience.



Yukio Murata, front man of **my way my love** and **Paper Bag Man**, aka creative genius, behind **U-re:x**, also known as **INORAN**'s backing guitarist, is a regular in our Hallowe'en edition.

With new works of him in the pipeline, we really had good reason to honour an excellent tradition!

Yukio, we all know you quite well by now, but could you tell us a little about the other two members in the band so our readers get to know them a little better too?

my way my love's drummer is *Shozo Ishida*. Shozo is a very passionate musician. He has a massive collection of records and cds of all kinds of music. Our bassist is *Katsuya Hayashi*, he's calm, collected and creative. They both have their own musical projects. They are always busy!

You're currently recording **ENTHRALLS**, could you tell us a little more about that?

It's a three song EP. We've actually just finished recording it.

Why did you choose the name ENTHRALLS?

I didn't choose it actually, but I think it's great, very befitting of the EP and I really like the sound of it.

In what way do you hope that the new album will enthrall people?

I hope people will be enthralled by our sound! We are not using any guitars, which is rare for me. I hope our fans will enjoy the new sound. I personally am very excited by the way it sounds.

Is there anything that enthralls you?

My family, especially my dog! Music everywhere. Laughter.

Do you have any plans for new U-re:x works as well?

I'm always working on U-re:x in one way or another. At the moment I am remixing a few songs. They sound pretty good!

You've been wanting to do a European tour for a while now, any chance we'll be able to see you on a European stage soon?

I really hope to be able to perform in Europe next year! With a new album to add to the setlist!

It's currently summer and festival season, if you could make your own festival line-up, which other bands would you choose to perform alongside *my way my love*?

Laughs good question! Off the top of my head: *Soulwax*, *Beck*, *The Cure*, *Flaming Lips*, *Autolux*, *STFRKR*, *The dodos*, and more...

You're very creative, but what is it that brings you in the creative zone to create new music? Do you have a specific ritual to get started on writing new songs?

Just a strong cup of coffee in the morning! Seriously, I rarely feel like I am not in a creative zone, my biggest problem is that there are not enough hours in every day!

If fans from overseas were to visit Tokyo, which places would you definitely recommend they visit? Other than come to see you perform live of course.

Try and visit some of the smaller live houses around Tokyo as there are many interesting bands around at the moment performing in those. A lot of tourists seem to like the Robot Restaurant in Shinjuku. I took some friends from the UK there a few weeks ago and that was interesting!

This issue is our traditional Halloween edition. Do you have plans for Halloween yet? What would you like to do to celebrate the holiday if you had the choice?

We are playing live that day so we are going to wear some special costumes for the occasion, but it's a secret!

Official site: www.mywaymylove.com

Official twitter: twitter.com/mywaymylove

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography provided by Yukio Murata.





Welcome to
HALLOWEEN
TOWN





Lora's outfit: Hairbow, Fly Away Fashion (now called Sumer Tales Boutique). **Top**, Disneyland Paris (Phantom Manor merchandise). **Skirt**, handmade by Lora. **Tights**, convention seller. **Boots**, Brako Anatomics. **Accessories**, Claire's, SIX and offbrand.

Hilde's outfit: Hairband, Veritas. **Hair flower**, H&M. **Frames**, Theo. **Top**, Disneyland Paris (Phantom Manor Merchandise). **Bracelets**, handmade and asos. **Bat bracelet**, Angelic Pretty (Magic Trick). **Bag**, Zatchels. **Skirt**, House of Secrets Incorporated. **Petticoat**, Raven. **Socks**, ebay seller. **Shoes**, Emilio Luca X.





Hair accessories, handmade by Saltje. One piece dress, Bodyline. Make-up by Saltje.



Hairband, Veritas. **Frames**, Theo. **Bloody cleaver bow hairclip**, Kreepsville 666. **Waterfall cardigan**, Veritas. **T-shirt**, customised Disneyland Paris Halloween merchandise. **Armour ring**, Poorman's Gold Label. **Chameleon skull ring**, Moonraven Designs. **Bat bracelet**, Angelic Pretty (Magic Trick). **Candy corn & candy bracelets**, handmade by Hilde. **Bag**, Bakker made with love. **Skirt**, House of Secrets Incorporated. **Knee socks**, local Monday morning market. **Sneakers**, Converse (Converse x DC - Batman collection).



Headdress, handmade by Mdina. **Scarf**, handmade. **Cardigan**, H&M. **Knitted top**, Apples. **Top**, H&M. **Wristcuffs**, House of Secrets Incorporated. **Skirt**, thrifted. **Legwarmers**, offbrand. **Boots**, Doc. Martens. **Special effects make-up** by Mdina.



Floral hairband, asos. Frames, Theo. Top, House of Secrets Incorporated. Blouse, asos. Belt, Molly Bracken. Tassel, Casa. Bracelet, handmade by Hilde. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Bag, Zatchels. Socks, TopShop. Shoes, Sacha.



Hairbow, 6% doki doki. Ribcage top, Super lovers. Bag, 6% doki doki. Leggings, ebay shop. Boots, Doc. Martens.



Hair flowers, Veritas. Frames, Theo. Long sleeved top, HEMA. Trumpet sleeve blouse, asos. Cat on broom necklace, Alice and the Pirates. Armor ring, Poorman's Gold Label. Plush bat bag, Anna Club Plush for WWF. Vampire print skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Petticoats, Dear Celine and American Apparel. Tights, H&M. Shoes, Secret Shop.



Hair flower, H&M. Frames, Theo. Sleeveless jeans jacket, H&M. Shirt, H&M. Necklace, customised rosary. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Petticoats, Dear Celine and American Apparel. Bracelets, handmade and Angelic Pretty (Magic Trick). Armor ring, Poorman's Gold Label. Skull ring, Moonraven Designs. Mood ring, asos. Bag, Bakker made with Love with a Zatchels strap. Umbrella, Angelic Pretty (Classical Champagne series). Skeleton tights, asos. Lace trim socks, ebay shop. Shoes, Emilio Luca X.

We all know the awesome Japanese tights we see in magazines such as KERA, but few people seem to know that you don't need to shop from Japan to get your hands on fantastic and fabulous legwear.

So high time to talk to **Caro**, owner and creative genius behind the amazing brand **Ophanim**, selling tights perfect for all kinds of J-fashion styles, ranging from lolita to dolly Kei, cult party kei, fairy kei and steampunk to pastel Goth and pretty much everything in between!



Why did you choose the name Ophanim for your label and what inspired you to start making your own creations and design tights in particular?

I chose the name Ophanim because it was a particular type of bible angel that I thought was really interesting! Ophanim are flying wheels covered in eyeballs, really a far cry from the traditional image of what an angel is supposed to look like and I always found that so incredibly strange. I chose to start designing my own tights simply because, at the time, printed tights were nearly impossible to find outside of Japan or for a reasonable price. I loved the trend and wanted to bring it to as many people as possible!

Did you follow any formal studies when it comes to graphic or fashion design?

I'm totally self-taught. I just have always loved to create art, especially when the art is tangible items that I can wear, like jewellery, hats, and now tights. There's something very satisfying about being able to create fully functional things!

What first got you interested in Japanese fashion and culture?

A long time ago, back in 2001 or 2002 when I first got a home computer and access to the internet I made a few friends on some forums I visited who were really into J-rock, visual kei, and all things Japanese. This was back when everyone still had dial-up, so I learned who the band *Malice Mizer* was, but didn't actually have the patience to wait a half hour or more to download one of their songs. I think I spent about a year and a half just knowing about the Visual Kei fashion and about musicians in J-rock bands before I ever got the chance to finally hear one of the songs! From there I learned about lolita fashion and now I keep up with the other alternative fashions and design houses that interest me in Japan. The dolly kei style and European style second hand shops in Japan are particularly interesting to me.

Which part of Japanese culture and fashion inspires you the most when it comes to your own designs?

Definitely lolita fashion and dolly kei. I love the antique opulence of both the fashions, I love how pristine and well put together it is in lolita, and how distressed and chaotic it is in dolly kei. I think those are two of my main inspirations when it comes to my own designs. I often think "can I personally wear this with lolita?" when I'm creating something.

You have been running a lolita blog for years, could you tell us a little about that?

I started *F Yeah Lolita* back in 2009 when everyone in the fashion seemed to have a lolita blog! By that point I had already been interested in the fashion for 7 or 8 years and had been seriously wearing it for 3 years, so I really felt that I had learned a lot about the style and thought that I had something to contribute that most other blogs didn't have. 2009 was at the peak over-the-top sweet lolita style that everyone seemed to be doing, and most blogs focused on that

style, but I had gotten into the fashion when Gothic lolita was the most popular and I wanted to remind everyone that you don't have to look like a pastel cupcake covered in plastic jewellery to be a lolita.

Which lolita styles do you wear yourself?

Personally, I wear a few different lolita styles. Gothic lolita is by far my favourite, and I have a lot of black dresses and pieces from *h.NAOTO* that I like to pair together. But I do also really enjoy classic lolita, and if I'm going to a lolita event to dress up, that's usually what I'll wear. I am also really into older lolita styles, like the kind that were popular when I first learned about the fashion, and I tend to collect pre-2005 pieces and have a large number of lolita brand pieces that are over 10 years old now! Ironically though, most of these are sweet lolita pieces!

Your designs are very diverse, and suit a lot of different (J-)fashion styles, aside from lolita, which other styles do you wear and love the most?

If I'm not in lolita, I'm in Goth. I have loved spooky fashion ever since the first time I saw *The Addams Family* when I was very little and dreamed of being as pretty as *Morticia*! So if I'm not wearing lolita, I like to wear a lot of black. My current favourite style, because it's been so hot this summer, is just really casual black sundresses, probably an *h.NAOTO* cardigan or some sort of lace bolero, and a big black wide-brim hat! I'm going to be really sad when winter comes around and I don't have an excuse to wear those hats any more.

If you could choose one well-known person in the J-fashion scene to wear your tights, whom would it be?

Probably lolita model *Misako Aoki*! She seems like such a sweet person and I'm lucky enough to have gotten the chance to meet her a couple times. She also suits so many different styles!



Steam Powered BJD tights worn, they are a lot more "antique golden" in colour in real life, but sadly the camera refused to cooperate.



Fawn tights in natural.

At the moment Ophanim is on storenvy and you're only selling tights, are there any plans to expand the label to garments and other accessories also?

On storenvy I only sell tights because storenvy makes it very easy to do pre-orders, if just because it has settings for them so it lets everyone know the item is a pre-order! I also make a lot of jewellery, usually in cast resin, but I have been working with polymer clay and assembled items recently too, as well as hair accessories and hand-made bonnets, but at the moment I don't sell them online, only in events in person. I used to sell ready-made accessories and headwear online, but because of the unique nature of each individual piece, it's a lot of shop upkeep to take pictures of everything and to keep track of the pieces. For shows I sell at, I might make 20 necklaces and they are all similar, but slightly different. I don't like to make exactly the same thing over and over again, I like everything I hand make to be a little bit unique. I think that customers really enjoy picking out their favourite version of a piece, and it allows me to experiment more.

What else would you like to create in the future?

I would really love to expand to garments as well. I love designing the tights and have designed some fabric in the past, and would like to do more in the future. I think something like that though would either need me to find a very talented seamstress to work with, or for me to really seriously start brushing up on my sewing. It's definitely something I've thought about and want to do one day!

Several Japanese stores specialise in goods by indi brands from outside of their own country, is there a shop that you hope will one day sell your designs in Japan?

Oh, I never even thought of this! I think it would be amazing to be in pretty much any select shop that also sells any of my favourite

brands, like *Baby, the Stars Shine Bright*, or *Metamorphose*, or *h.NAOTO*, but that's just a dream for now! Currently I don't really do any "shelf ready" packaging for my tights because it's less cost for me and for my customers, so I would have to think up something for that before I even let myself dream about something like that!

This issue is our traditional Halloween edition. Do you have plans for Halloween yet? What would you like to do to celebrate the holiday if you had the choice?

I haven't even really thought about what I'm going to do this year on Halloween! Halloween seems to take me by surprise every year. A couple years ago I went up to Salem Massachusetts, home of the infamous witch trials, just before Halloween and I would love to do that again this year! It's a really amazing town with some incredibly unique shops, and the whole town really goes all out for Halloween. If I could, I would love to get up there again this year, right before Halloween, and do a lot of shopping!

Are you going to do a special Halloween design?

Unfortunately, Ophanim is not going to do a special Halloween design! Although it's something I would absolutely love to do! Currently, because the tights are pre-orders, it's very hard to plan exactly when things will be released, so I would be afraid we would be taking Halloween pre-orders as early as July!

On a closing note, could you pass some words of wisdom to the aspiring designers amongst our readers?

It might be sort of silly, but my advice would be that if you have an idea, just do it! Even if you're just doing it for yourself, and not something you plan on selling. Great ideas are sometimes fleeting, and I've never thought "oh, I wish I sat around and waited for this and that to happen before I tried doing that thing" when it came to creativity.

Find ophanim, and Caro, online:

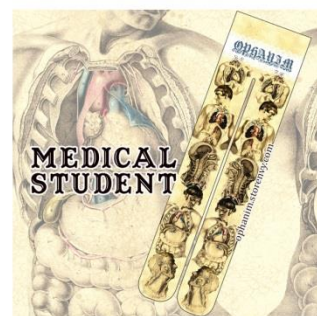
Storenvy page: <http://ophanim.storenvy.com>

F Yeah Lolita blog: <http://fyehlolita.blogspot.com>

Twitter: twitter.com/misscarochan

Tumblr: fyehlolita.tumblr.com

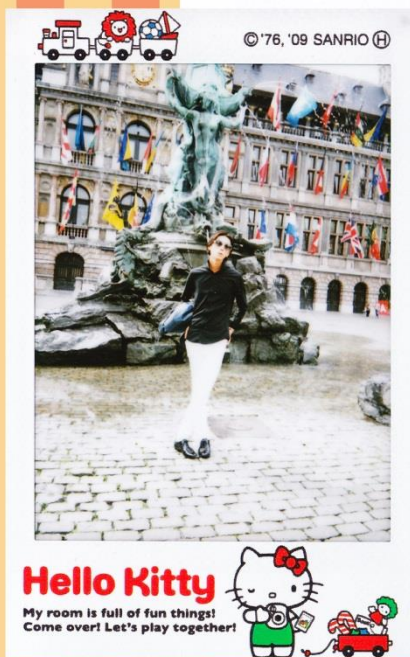
Interview by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.
Product images provided by Caro.



CHECK THAT CHEKI

Want to be in the next edition's Check that Cheki page?

Send a Cheki photo of yourself to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



BCM SNAP

Want to be in the next edition's Snap page?
Send a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion, any kind will do, or steampunk (due to the current popularity of the style in Japan)
to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



JAPAN EXPO SNAP!

July 2 - 6, Parc des Expositions Paris-Nord-Villepinte, Villepinte, France

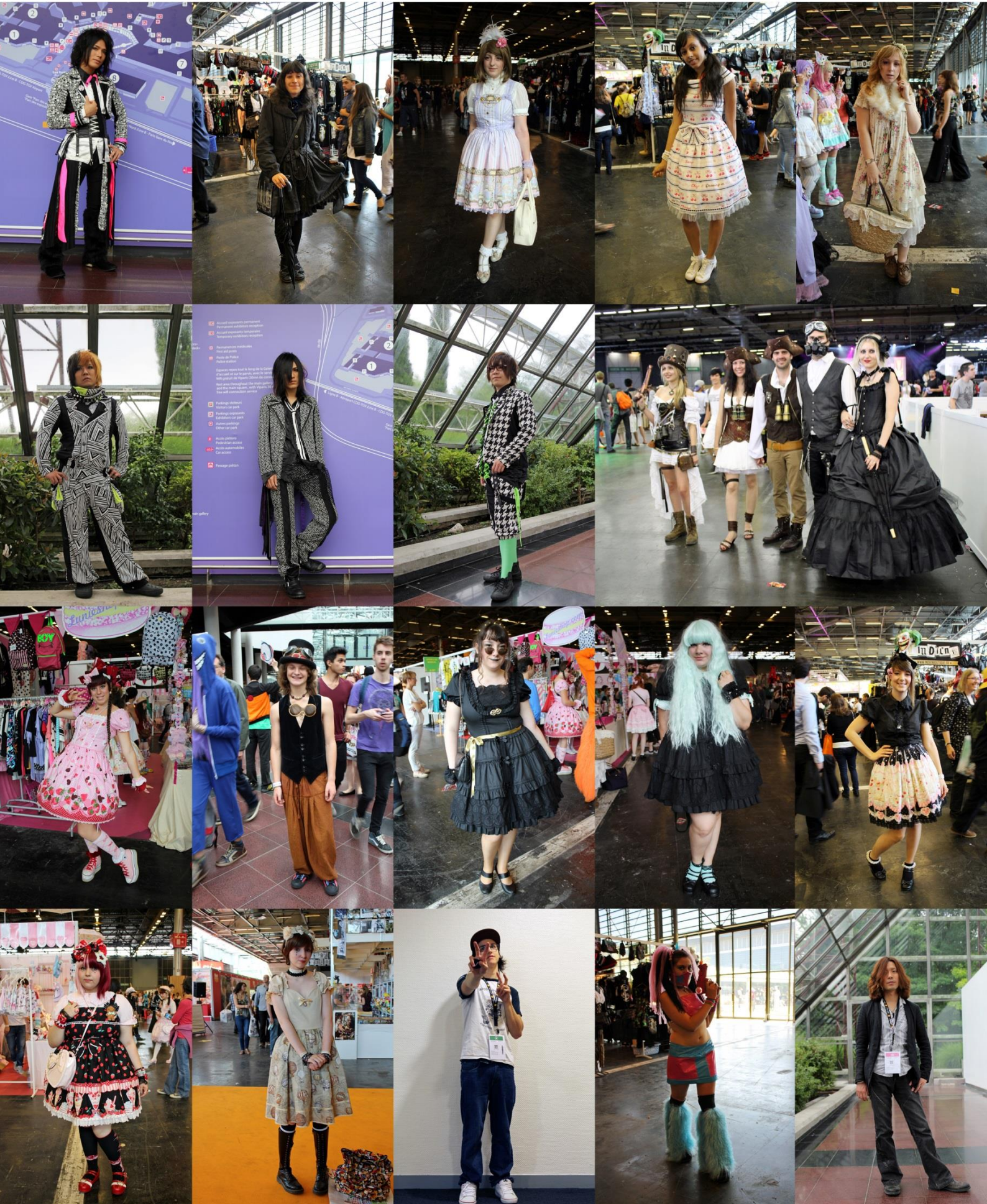
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



JAPAN EXPO SNAP!

Page 2, because there were too many awesomely dressed people to fit them all on 1 page!

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



FRENCH CAFÉ'S GARDEN PARTY SNAP!

Monday, July 7; Manoir de l'île aux Loups, Nogent sur Marne, France.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Saltje Khenfi.



ATSUSACON SNAP!

July 19 - 20, Antwerp Expo, Antwerp, Belgium.

Photography by Babs Barning and Hilde Heyvaert.





METAL FEMALE VOICES FEST

Oktoberhallen **XII** 17-18-19/10/2014



Sunday 19

XANDRIA **WOLFE** **THE RION**
STREAM OF PASSION **VIPER SOLFA** **HOLY MOSES**
ENEMY OF REALITY *Magistrade* *Aria Flame* **EVEPOIRE**

Saturday 18

SIRENIA *The Sirens* *Leaves' Eyes*
LIV KRISTINE & KARI RUESLÄTTEN & ANNEKE VAN GIESBERGEN
DIABVLVS IN MVSIKA **DRACONIAN** *Humps of a Decade*
10th Anniversary special show
SKEPTICAL MINDS **DARK SAK** **HEAD PHONES** **PRESIDENT** **JADE STAR**
La Ventura **ANCIEN BARD S** *season of ghosts*

Friday 17

AYIN **DIARY OF DESTRUCTION**
ALEPH

METAL FEMALE VOICES UNITED

Cover Band project Featuring: Mariangela The Murtas, Cassandra Novell, Maxi Nil, Ailyn Giménez, Karolina Pacan, Iliana Tsakiraki, Saeko Kitamae

Oktoberhallen : Schrovestraat 18 - 9280 Wieze (Belgium) www.metalfemalevoicesfest.be

TOO WILD *Helfapen*
www.helcanen.be

TIM TRONCKOE

Sonic Cathedral

ROCK TRIBUNE

LARGE

Elegy

HARD ROCK

EVANS

Blackstar

TAMA

Zildjian

BCM

PRINT PALACE

paylogic
 Ticketnet.be

Presales : Paylogic, Ticketnet, Fnac, Primera, Metaltrip, Hard Rock market, Metaltix

EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

SEPTEMBER 2014

sukekiyo European tour

- 13: PIPL Club, Moscow, Russia
15: Nosturi, Helsinki, Finland
17: Le Divan du Monde, Paris, France
18: O2 Academy Islington, London, United Kingdom
20: C-Club, Berlin, Germany
21: Zeche Bochum, Bochum, Germany

Retro MiA (Made in Asia)

Date: 13 & 14
Venue: Namur Expo
City: Namur
Country: Belgium
www.madeinasia.be

HITT

5 Years of Love European tour

- 19: Japan FM + Abracadabar, Paris, France
20: Asian Culture Party, Lisbon, Portugal
21: Memphis Underground, Barcelona, Spain
25: Bar Live 301, Roubaix, France
26: 330 Live, The Hague, The Netherlands
27: La Légia, Liège, Belgium
28: MTC, Cologne, Germany
www.ramen-events.com



Elfia Arcen

Date: 20 & 21
Venue: the grounds of Arcen castle
City: Arcen
Country: The Netherlands
www.elfia.com

Revelry

Tea Party Club anniversary event
Date: 20 & 21
Venues: The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn and The Army & Navy Club
City: London
Country: UK
streetfashioneurope.tumblr.com
buytickets.at/theteapartyclub

OCTOBER 2014

Gothic Lolitas

A stage play by
La Cie les Framboisiers
Date: every Wednesday at 8pm starting October 15
Venue: Laurette Theatre
City: Paris
Country: France
www.laurette-theatre.fr
Metal Female Voices Fest
Date: 17 – 19
Venue: Oktoberhallen
City: Wieze
Country: Belgium
www.metalfemalevoicesfest.be

HALLYUCON

Date: 18
Venue: De Meervaart
City: Amsterdam
Country: The Netherlands
www.hallyucon.nl

FACTS

Date: 18 & 19
Venue: Flanders Expo
City: Ghent
Country: Belgium
www.facts.be

Crossfaith live

APOCALYZE NOW European Tour
29: Arena, Vienna, Austria
30: Komplex Klub, Zurich, Switzerland
www.crossfaith.jp/en/tour

SAGA European Tour

31: Lucca Comics, Italy
www.ramen-events.com

NOVEMBER 2014

French Café's Halloween

J-fashion Walk
Date: 1
Venue: n/a
City: Brussels
Country: Belgium

Crossfaith live

APOCALYZE NOW European Tour
1: Le Ferrailleur, Nantes, France
2: Divan Du Monde, Paris, France
3: De Klinker Club, Aarschot, Belgium
4: Helling, Utrecht, The Netherlands
5: Schlachthof, Wiesbaden, Germany

- 6: Backstage Halle, Munich, Germany
8: Logo, Hamburg, Germany
9: Magnet, Berlin, Germany
10: Underground, Cologne, Germany
26: Zal Ozhidaniya, St-Petersburg, Russia
27: Volta, Moscow, Russia
www.crossfaith.jp/en/tour

SAGA European Tour

- 1: Lucca Comics, Italy
2: La Java, Paris, France
<http://www.ramen-events.com>

Babymetal live in the UK

Date: 8
Venue: O2 Academy Brixton
City: London
Country: UK
www.kililive.com/gigs/babymetal-london-2014-11-08-19-00

Emporium Vernesque

Date: 8
Venue: Luxor Live
City: Arnhem
Country: The Netherlands
www.emporiumvernesque.com

DECEMBER 2014

ONE OK ROCK European Tour

- 1: Batschkapp, Frankfurt, Germany
2: Zenith, Paris, France
3: Komplex Klub, Zurich, Switzerland
4: Magazzini Generali, Milan, Italy
6: Theaterfabric, Munich, Germany
7: Essigfabrik, Cologne, Germany
8: Kesselhaus, Berlin, Germany
9: Amager Bio, Copenhagen, Denmark
10: Debaser Medis, Stockholm, Sweden
12: Grosse Freiheit, Hamburg, Germany
13: Melkweg Max, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
14: Trix Club, Antwerp, Belgium
16: Electric Ballroom, London, UK
19: St-Petersburg, Russia
21: Glavclub, Moscow, Russia
www.oneokrock.com

Satsuki live

Date: 5
Venue: MTC
City: Cologne
Country: Germany

TOO WILD

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Design - Video - Booking
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www.too-wild.com



SUBMISSION RULES

1. Commitment.

When you agree to do something for the magazine, please commit and actually DO it. There's nothing as annoying as people that agree to do something and then don't. Especially right before deadline. Yes people can become ill and life may get in the middle, but the deadline is announced well beforehand and there's really no need to wait 'till the very last moment to submit an article. Generally there is a lot of time for people to submit their pieces. I edit something as soon as I get a piece in, just to make sure that I can get everything done in time and health and life can only provide minimal disturbance. So you're actually doing me a favour by submitting as soon as possible/before deadline.

If someone doesn't submit to an edition without a valid reason or explanation, I reserve the right to set an earlier deadline for the person that hasn't submitted before whilst they committed, to make sure that we get the article in the next magazine they wish to cooperate on. I'm not doing this to hurt feelings or step on toes, but I don't want to give people the opportunity to hijack the magazine (with or without malicious intent). That sounds harsh, I agree, but in my personal experience some people systematically volunteer and never deliver, thus excluding others from the opportunity to submit and keeping the magazine from getting said piece in. It's exactly that I'm trying to avoid by putting rules like these in place.

Being chief editor isn't just all the fun and good times, it is a lot of hard work and sometimes I will have to make harsh decisions and this is one of them. I'm sorry if this upsets someone, that's not my intention, I'm trying to do right by the magazine and especially the people that genuinely want to contribute and our readers.

2. Deadline

Stick to the deadline. They are announced well in time. You can not only find it right here, but also on the very last page of the magazine. It's easy to find the deadline when you forget when it is.

The deadline for issue 21 is **October 24th**.

Submissions not in my inbox when I turn on my computer the morning of October 25th will not appear in the magazine (unless otherwise agreed beforehand). Plain and simple as that. Respect the deadline people!

The reason behind this is simple: not only does everyone have ample time to meet the deadline; from experience I know that extending it means that the magazine is likely never to happen.

Also: editing takes a lot of work, so if I want to release in a timely manner after the deadline I can't wait for articles 'till Hell freezes over.

3. Submitting

All entries for the magazine must be submitted by email on hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com

That is also the address where you can reach me with questions, remarks etc.

If you have an idea for the next edition, don't hesitate to let me know!

When you submit artwork or photos, they must be **at least** 2000 pixels and jpg files, the bigger the better! (e.g. a photo of 1333 x 2000 or 1500 x 2000 works fine, everything larger too, everything smaller may become problematic at final edit). Files that are too small are no use to me so please take that into account.

Also, be mindful of quality, I cannot stress this enough!

ONLY submit pieces you have the right to submit. If someone complains about copyright infringement over a piece you've submitted I will send these people to you. This is YOUR responsibility and you will be held accountable in an infringement case.

As far as the **spelling** is concerned, we do NOT allow text speech, texts written like you speak or things filled with purposefully bad spelling. Everyone makes mistakes and that's not an issue, hopefully those mistakes will be caught during the proofreading (not everything gets caught though; we're all only human after all). That aside, everyone can operate a spell check I'm sure, please do that before submitting an article. It gets rid of the more obvious mistakes and makes life easier for proof readers and editor alike. It's just a matter of common courtesy.

About **photography and art**: I am aware that not everyone is equally talented. It is in no way so that one needs to have some kind of art degree to be allowed to submit to the magazine. We may not expect a degree, but we do, however, expect a certain quality. It doesn't matter that you don't have professional materials, just do your very best to submit things that are presentable.

NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be BCM # 21,
our Holiday edition,
spanning the months
November and December 2014.

Fashion

Style Spotlight: Visual kei!

Visual kei fashion feature.

We are still looking for photo submission for this feature.

So if you have a good quality high resolution photo of yourself wearing Visual-kei fashion, please don't hesitate to send it in!

End of year holiday (so not just Christmas!)

J-fashion feature

Any type of J-fashion is welcome, as long as it is in the right theme!

Snap and cheki pages and more!

J-Music Corner

CD reviews

Concert reviews

Interviews with

Seasons of Ghosts

Head Phones President

Magistina Saga

Lifestyle

Event reviews

J-fashion meets

(Artifakt) steampunk meets

And much, much more!

If you want to be featured in any of our outfit snaps, send in a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion (any style allowed), or come pose for us if you see a photographer of BCM at an event and you may very well see yourself in the next Snap!

If you want to be part of the new Check that Cheki page, send in scans of photos you have taken with any kind of instant camera. Instax models are preferred but by all means, any instant camera is ok as long as the photo is relevant to BCM.





Magistina Saga.

Photographed by Akio Yokoyama.

Magistina Saga will perform in Belgium at the Metal Female Voices Festival on Sunday, October 19th at the Oktoberhallen in Wieze. For more information keep an eye on the band's website www.magistasaga.com and the event's site www.metalfemalevoicesfest.be